

Message

From: Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) [wxq5@cdc.gov]
Sent: 2/5/2020 11:16:52 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
CC: Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Han, Kaythi [Han.Kaythi@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Woods, Andrea [Woods.Andrea@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: C Auris press release and press plan

Hi Andrea,

That sounds great. Let's touch base early next week. I'm in Nebraska for the novel coronavirus, but can help support things remotely as needed.

Thanks,

Brian

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 3:44 PM
To: Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>
Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: C Auris press release and press plan

Hi Brian,

I hope things aren't overwhelming over there with everything going on. We have decided to move ahead with our C. Auris release next Wednesday. No need for you to do anything, but wanted to keep you in the loop. I'm attaching the most recent version of the release and we'll keep you posted on our end as we get closer to next week.

Thanks!

From: Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 10:10 AM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: C Auris press release and press plan

Hi again Andrea,

Here are the email addresses for the reporters who have covered *C. auris* previously.

Let me know the plans for announcing. Our new page should be going live later this morning so I think we're all set, but we won't promote any of the pages if you decide to hold the announcement.

Thanks,

Brian

Matt Richtel - matr@nytimes.com

Sara Dorn - sdorn@nypost.com

Nadia Kounang - nadia.kounang@turner.com

Amy Woodyatt - amy.woodyatt@turner.com

Helen Branswell - helen.branswell@statnews.com

Chris Dall - cdall@umn.edu

Kashmira Gander - k.gander@newsweek.com

Lena Ciric - Science.Radio.Unit.Temp.02@bbc.co.uk

Maryn McKenna - majmckenna@me.com

From: Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED)

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 9:37 AM

To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>

Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: C Auris press release and press plan

Hi Andrea,

Just a quick update, the quote we've drafted for the press release is making its way through HHS clearance. I'm hoping to have something for you by tomorrow, but I'll let you know if it gets held up for some reason.

Also, here is a list of a handful of national reporters who have covered *C. auris* in the past year or so. Hopefully this is helpful.

- Matt Richtel, New York Times - <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/13/health/candida-auris-resistant-hospitals.html>
- Sara Dorn; New York Post - <https://nypost.com/2019/04/06/cdc-sounds-alarm-on-resistant-superbug-fungus-after-nyc-outbreak/>
- Brendan Goodman; WebMD - <https://blogs.webmd.com/webmd-interviews/20190409/superbug-yeast-spreads-through-us-hospitals>
- Amy Woodyatt and Nadia Kounang; CNN - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/13/health/superbug-repelling-surface-intl-scli-scn/index.html>, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/13/health/superbug-amr-drug-resistant-cdc-2019-report/index.html>
- Helen Branswell, STAT News - <https://www.statnews.com/2019/07/08/candida-auris-superbug-threat-research-funding/>
- Chris Dall, CIDRAP - <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2019/04/novel-antifungal-shows-early-promise-against-candida-auris>
- Kashmira Gander, Newsweek - <https://www.newsweek.com/candida-auris-fungus-global-warming-diseases-1450418>
- Maryn McKenna, Wired - <https://www.wired.com/story/the-strange-and-curious-case-of-the-deadly-superbug-yeast/>
- Lena Ciric, BBC - <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-49170866>

Thanks,

Brian

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>
Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: C Auris press release and press plan

Hi Brian,

I hope you had a great holiday. We're working our way toward announcing our C. Auris registrations in the next few weeks. We are targeting the week of the 13th as of now, but can be flexible based on the timing of your web updates, as we had discussed. I'm attaching our draft press release, which is still going through review here at EPA (especially since I just made another round of tweaks that my folks are seeing for the first time in this draft!!), but I wanted to get the draft to you so that you could start thinking about/working on a quote from your end.

As far as press is concerned, we will be doing a national release. I'm also hoping to have our regional offices push the release out to their local lists and pitch some local reporters who have covered the issue over the past year.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Thanks so much and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kaythi/Cheryl, let me know if any additional edits need to be made.

-Andrea-

Andrea Drinkard
Senior Advisor
EPA Office of Public Affairs
Desk: 202.564.1601
Cell: 202.236.7765

From: Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 26, 2019 8:37 AM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

Sounds good. Have a great holiday!

Brian

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2019 3:47 PM

To: Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>

Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

So far so good on the flu. ☐☐

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

I hope you have a great holiday.

On Dec 23, 2019, at 8:40 AM, Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov> wrote:

Hi Andrea,

Hope you had a nice (and flu-free) weekend. I checked in with our *C. auris* program folks and they said they'll likely update the list of approved disinfectants in early to mid-January. They're a little hesitant to hold it because this is "information facilities are using to guide infection control and we want to make it available to them as quickly as possible."

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Let me know if you want to discuss further.

Thanks!

Brian

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 4:38 PM

To: Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>

Cc: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) <hbb9@cdc.gov>; Greene, Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <ite6@cdc.gov>; Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

Thanks! Look for a meeting invite from me tomorrow. Please let me know what times would be good for you on Friday/Monday/Tuesday.

On Dec 11, 2019, at 4:32 PM, Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov> wrote:

Hi Andrea and Heather,

Nice to virtually meet you all. We're excited about the partnership. I think a quick call would be great.

The challenging part will be navigating clearance if you're hoping for early January, but we can determine the best course of action once we chat.

Thanks!

Brian Katzowitz, MS

Health Communication Specialist
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
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(404) 455-9924 - Cell

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) <hbb9@cdc.gov>; Greene, Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <ite6@cdc.gov>; Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>; Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

Excellent! Thanks, Heather for connecting us. I'm adding one of my colleagues from our Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention who will be drafting the release. I also think we want to see whether we could add a sentence or two about our work to your website, if appropriate. I'd be happy to set up a quick call in the coming days to discuss, if that works for everyone.

-Andrea-

PS: Please forgive the internal back and forth that's below. We are definitely targeting January for this announcement ☺

Andrea Drinkard
Senior Advisor
EPA Office of Public Affairs
Desk: 202.564.1601
Cell: 202.236.7765

From: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) <hbb9@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Greene, Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <ite6@cdc.gov>; Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

Wonderful! Brian, I would like to introduce you to Andrea Drinkard who is my counterpart in the EPA office of public affairs. Andrea has been tasked with developing a statement from EPA about an approved sanitizing agent for C. auris and would like a quote from your program in CDC.

From: Greene, Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <ite6@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 3:08 PM

To: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) <hhb9@cdc.gov>; Katzowitz, Brian (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <wxq5@cdc.gov>

Subject: RE: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

Hi Heather,

I'm adding Brian Katzowitz, who will be the communication POC on this request.

Thanks for passing this along.

Elizabeth

From: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) <hhb9@cdc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 2:58 PM

To: Greene, Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED) <ite6@cdc.gov>

Subject: FW: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

My communications colleague at EPA would like to connect with either you or the comms person in mycotics to discuss getting a quote from Tom Chiller (?) about the importance of the agencies working together on these superbugs like C. auris.

I would like to connect my counterpart at EPA with your or who you think is most appropriate for this request. Who should I connect her too?

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 2:55 PM

To: Bair-Brake, Heather (ATSDR/OCOM) <hhb9@cdc.gov>

Subject: FW: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

From: Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 12:57 PM

To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

Heads up on C. auris for today's meeting—people seem to have an appetite to move the announcement back to December....

Kaythi Han

Acting Communications Director

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-6233 | han.kaythi@epa.gov

From: Siciliano, CarolAnn <Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 12:54 PM

To: Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>;

Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward

<Messina.Edward@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

Thanks, Rick. I agree on all counts. **Kaythi**, let's discuss with Andrea during our Comms weekly this afternoon.

Carol Ann Siciliano
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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
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siciliano.carolann@epa.gov

From: Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Siciliano, CarolAnn <Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov>; Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

A few thoughts:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Siciliano, CarolAnn <Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 10:00 AM
To: Han, Kaythi <Han.Kaythi@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>
Subject: Washington Post editorial re: c. auris

See below for the Thursday Nov. 28 Washington Post editorial on *c. auris*. I'd like your views on whether we should move up our announcement about the newly registered fungicides?

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Washington, DC 20450
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siciliano.carolann@epa.gov

From: Turley, Jennifer <Turley.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:54 AM

To: Siciliano, CarolAnn <Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: A link to a Wash Post editorial?

Good morning Carol Ann,

I am not sure if the article was sent to you though the Washington Post, but here is a copy of the requested article.

The superbug threat is morphing

A new CDC report shows that it is worsening in some ways.

- The Washington Post

- 28 Nov 2019

-

THE CENTERS for Disease Control and Prevention has published a disturbing new report on antibiotic resistance, the first since its benchmark survey in 2013. Antibiotic resistance is the tendency of pathogens — bacteria and fungi — to fight back against antibiotic drugs, making some infections harder to treat, or untreatable altogether, one of the most severe public health threats in the world today. The CDC'S report offers a glimmer of hope that resistance can be slowed, but it also shows how the dangers are deepening and changing, including with a new pathogen that wasn't even on the radar screen six years ago.

Antibiotics, the miracle drugs invented in the mid-20th century, have made possible a revolution in modern medicine — for example, enabling organ transplants — and have spared countless individuals from death and illness. When bacteria became resistant in the early years, new antibiotics were readily created. But more recently, the pipeline of antibiotic development has slowed, and patients are again confronting untreatable illnesses.

The CDC knew this when it estimated in 2013 that 2 million Americans had suffered antibiotic-resistant infections resulting in 23,000 deaths a year. But using improved data methods, the CDC has now revised the estimates to 2.6 million infections then, and 44,000 deaths, nearly twice as many as thought. Today, the agency says there are 2.8 million infections and 35,000 deaths a year. The number of deaths due to antibiotic-resistant infections has dropped by 18 percent, according to the CDC, largely because of successful interventions by hospitals. That's the good news.

But there is plenty to worry about. Though hospitals are making headway, the agency found some of the greatest increases in infections are acquired outside hospitals. Also, the threat of antibiotic resistance is remarkably

fluid; new threats arise even as old ones are mitigated. For example, the CDC has raised the alert level to “urgent” for *Candida auris*, a multi-drug-resistant yeast that can cause invasive infection and death. Some strains are resistant to all three available classes of antibiotics. It wasn’t even listed in the 2013 report, but the CDC says reported cases have surged 318 percent in 2018 compared with 2015 to 2017. The CDC has also raised the alert level to “urgent” for strains of *Acinetobacter* that are resistant to carbapenems, a class of highly effective antibiotics. Also concerning: Gonorrhea, a sexually transmitted disease, has rapidly become resistant to all but one class of antibiotics.

The CDC has put a welcome and needed emphasis on fighting antibiotic resistance as a “one health” problem that is interconnected between human and animal health, and the environment. Big challenges remain, including being vigilant against overuse of antibiotics and creating an improved model for developing new antibiotics. There is no excuse for inaction. The threats are real, dynamic and persistent.

Thanks,
Jennifer

Jennifer Turley
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From: Siciliano, CarolAnn <Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Turley, Jennifer <Turley.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: A link to a Wash Post editorial?

Hi, Jennifer. I hope you have very nice Thanksgiving. I have a favor to ask: could you send me a link to a Washington Post editorial from Thursday Nov. 28 entitled “The superbug threat is morphing”? Thanks.

Carol Ann Siciliano
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